

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 13-28 were presented for examination. The Examiner issued a restriction requirement and withdrew claims 25-28 from examination, and issued a final office action maintaining his previous rejection. As such, the Applicant is filing this amendment with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Claims 1-8 and 13-28 are herein cancelled without prejudice, and claims 29-52 are new.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, the Applicant has cancelled the claims 25-28 rendering the restriction moot.

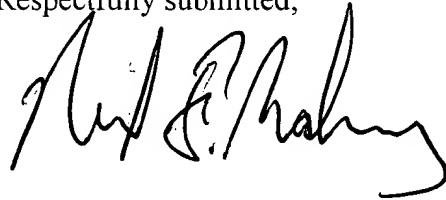
The new claims 29-52 more clearly define the Applicant's invention, and the Applicant respectfully requests examination of the claims in light the RCE filed with this amendment. Each of the new claims 29-52 defines a "method for determining the correct Internet Protocol (IP) address for network-connected devices." The method includes receiving from a target device on the network a request to be assigned an IP address. The request includes a physical address (also referred to as the MAC address or Ethernet address) associated with the target device. The method further includes issuing a query to one or more managed network switches on the network, each switch having a number of ports. Each query specifies the physical address of the target device, and requests that the queried switch report the number of any port on which was received data sent by a device having the specified physical address. An IP address may then be assigned to the target device based on the replies from the queried managed network switches.

For example, Independent claims 29, 48, and 52 each recite, in part: "in response to determining that one of the queried managed network switches and a port number reported by that switch corresponds to a single known IP address, assigning that known IP address to the target device." Independent claims 46 recites, in part: "analyzing replies to each of the queries to determine if an entry in the database matches one of the queried managed network switches and the port number reported by that switch; and in response to only one entry matching, assigning the IP address of that entry to the target device."

The Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the cited references, including Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,101). In particular, Lee fails to disclose the assigning of an IP address to a requesting target device, where the assigning is based on replies from queried managed network switches, and where the queries to the managed network switches specify the physical address of the target device. Other deficiencies of Lee will become apparent upon examination of the new claims.

The Applicant believes the above amendments and remarks to be fully responsive, thereby placing this application in condition for allowance. No new matter is added. Favorable action is solicited. The Applicant kindly invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile, or email for quickest resolution, if there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil F. Maloney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "M" and "N".

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